

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 24 (Canceled)

Claim 25 (Currently amended): A method of forming a servo pattern on magnetic data storage tape comprising:

providing a source beam of laser energy;

separating the source beam of laser energy into two or more beams;

directing the beams onto a surface of the magnetic data storage tape to write at least two servo tracks in the servo pattern simultaneously on the surface of the magnetic data storage tape.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, further comprising moving the tape relative to the beams.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): The method of claim 25, wherein the magnetic data storage tape includes a magnetic coating on a substrate, the method further comprising directing the beams onto a surface of the substrate.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein separating the source beam comprises directing the source beam into a beam splitting mirror block.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein separating the source beam comprises directing the source beam into a diffractive optical element.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein the source beam is linearly polarized with a polarization vector, and further wherein separating the source beam

comprises directing the source beam into a Wollaston prism with an optical axis that is offset from the polarization vector of the source beam.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the optical axis of the Wollaston prism is offset from the polarization vector of the source beam by about 45 degrees.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 30, wherein the Wollaston prism is located between first and second lenses, and further wherein changing the distances between the Wollaston prism and the first and second lenses changes a divergence angle between the beams.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein power variations between the two or more beams are about 10% or less.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25, wherein the two or more beams diverge at a divergence angle, and wherein the method further comprises adjusting the divergence angle to obtain a desired servo track pitch.

Claim 35 (Currently amended): A method comprising:
separating a source beam of laser energy into two or more beams; and
directing the beams onto a substrate surface of a magnetic data storage tape to write at least two servo tracks simultaneously on the substrate surface of the magnetic data storage tape.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, further comprising moving the tape relative to the beams.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, wherein separating the source beam comprises directing the source beam into a beam splitting mirror block.

Claim 38 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, wherein separating the source beam comprises directing the source beam into a diffractive optical element.

Claim 39 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the source beam is linearly polarized with a polarization vector, and further wherein separating the source beam comprises directing the source beam into a Wollaston prism with an optical axis that is offset from the polarization vector of the source beam.

Claim 40 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 39, wherein the optical axis of the Wollaston prism is offset from the polarization vector of the source beam by about 45 degrees.

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 39, wherein the Wollaston prism is located between first and second lenses, and further wherein changing the distances between the Wollaston prism and the first and second lenses changes a divergence angle between the beams.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, wherein power variations between the two or more beams are about 10% or less.

Claim 43 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, wherein the two or more beams diverge at a divergence angle, and wherein the method further comprises adjusting the divergence angle to obtain a desired servo track pitch.